

**RUMNEY**  
**2011 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES**

To the inhabitants of the Town of Rumney in the County of Grafton and State of New Hampshire qualified to vote in town affairs:

The voters of the Town of Rumney met at the Russell Elementary School Gymnasium on School Street in said Rumney on Tuesday, the 8<sup>th</sup> day of March 2011 at 8:00 o'clock in the morning at which time the polls were opened for balloting on Articles 1 and closed at 7:00 o'clock in the evening. Voters also met at the Russell Elementary School Gymnasium in said Rumney on Thursday, the 10<sup>th</sup> day of March 2011 at 7:00 o'clock in the evening for the second session of the Town Meeting at which time action was taken upon the remaining articles in the warrant.

The Rumney Annual Town Meeting was opened by Moderator Jim Buttolph at 7:00 pm with the pledge of allegiance.

Janice Mulherin gave a gift and recognition to Peggy Grass for her dedication to the recreation program since 1989. Peggy also took charge of the tree lighting on the common at Christmas time.

A presentation of gifts and thank-you was given to John Fucci for serving as a member on the Board of Selectman. He stepped in to finish a vacant position and then was elected for a three year term. John was responsible for the restoration of the West Rumney Fire Station, Rumney Beautification Week, Rumney Register and Amnesty Day at the Transfer Station.

Moderator Buttolph gave a report from the Groton Wind Farm research about how much of Rumney is historical. Besides the village area, parts of Quincy Road out to the Plymouth town line and parts of the Depot area are also in that category.

**ARTICLE 1:** There were 187 voters who came to the polls to choose all necessary town officers for the ensuing year by official ballot on March 8<sup>th</sup>. The polls opened at 8:00 am and closed at 7:00 pm. Results were as follows:

|  |                |     |
|--|----------------|-----|
| Selectman for 3 years                  | Cheryl Lewis   | 128 |
|  | Arthur Morrill | 49  |
| Treasurer for 1 year                   | Rita Wilkin    | 164 |
| Library Trustee for 3 years            | Leina Smoker   | 147 |
| Cemetery Trustee for 3 years           | David Berman   | 167 |
| (2) Planning Board Members for 3 years | David Coursey  | 158 |
|  | Thomas Grabiek | 130 |
| Trustee of Trust Funds for 3 years     | James Turbyne  | 168 |
| Fire Commissioner for 3 years          | James McCart   | 155 |

**ARTICLE 2:** To choose one member for the **Advisory Committee** for a three-year term to represent the Village area.

**ACTION: Motion was put on the floor and seconded to choose one member of the Advisory Committee to represent the village. Kevin Maes was nominated. All were in favor and the clerk was instructed by the Moderator to cast a single vote in the affirmative for Kevin Maes to represent the village on the Advisory Committee.**

**ARTICLE 3:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$419,717** to defray **General Government Expenses** for the ensuing year; \$393,117 to be raised by taxes; \$10,000 from collected fees; \$5,600-employees' share of health insurance; \$2,500-Used Waste Oil Grant and \$8,500 from Town Facilities' Fund. (Majority vote required)

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Executive                                | \$ 54,370        |
| Town Clerk/Tax Collector                 | \$ 46,366        |
| Supervisors of the Checklist             | \$ 3,165         |
| Financial Administration                 | \$ 36,025        |
| Legal Expense                            | \$ 8,000         |
| Employee Admin/Benefits                  | \$184,940        |
| Planning Board                           | \$ 2,801         |
| General Government Buildings             | \$ 49,600        |
| Street Lights                            | \$ 7,800         |
| Insurance-Property/Liability & WC        | \$ 23,050        |
| Regional Association Dues                | <u>\$ 3,600</u>  |
| <b>Total General Government Expenses</b> | <b>\$419,717</b> |

**ACTION:** A motion was made and seconded to put Article 3 on the floor. Money was included in the dues line to join the North Country Council. They will be helping finish the Master Plan. The Select board wants to establish a Facilities Committee made up of volunteers to oversee the Town Buildings. Voice vote was all in favor of Article 3.

**ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$46,250** for **Assessing Services and Tax Maps updates** for the ensuing year.

**ACTION:** Motion was made and seconded to put Article 4 on the floor. It was explained that this money will start the 4 year process of the reval of the town. Article 4 was voted all in favor.

**ARTICLE5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$7,000** for the purpose of completing the update of the **Master Plan**. This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the update of the Master Plan is completed or by December 31, 2016, whichever is sooner. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION:** Motion was made and seconded to put Article 5 on the floor. All voted in favor of Article 5.

**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$10,000** for **Code Enforcement** for the ensuing year.

**ACTION:** Motion was made and seconded to put Article 6 on the floor. In 2008 there were 54 properties in violation and it is now down to 4. Two are actively working on the clean up and two may involve legal action. All voted in favor of Article 6.

**ARTICLE 7:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$30,000** for the operation of the **Cemeteries** for the ensuing year; \$20,000 to be raised by taxes and \$10,000 to come from Cemetery Trust Funds.

**ACTION:** Motion was made and seconded to put Article 7 on the floor. \$20,000 would be for general maintenance and \$10,000 for repairs to stones, gates and tree work. All voted in favor of Article 7.

**ARTICLE 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$174,843** to defray the cost of running the **Police Department** for the ensuing year.

**ACTION:** Motion was made and seconded to put **Article 8** on the floor. Mark noted that the money for fuel would only be used for fuel. All voted in favor of **Article 8**.

**ARTICLE 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$25,000** for **Ambulance Service** contracted with the **Warren/Wentworth Ambulance Service** for the ensuing year.

**ACTION:** Motion was made and seconded to put **Article 9** on the floor. The ambulance service was changed from Plymouth to Warren/Wentworth at approximately a **\$10,000** savings. Warren/Wentworth service is fully staffed with paramedics on board. All voted in favor of **Article 9**.

**ARTICLE 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$11,273** to defray the cost of the **Safety Committee, E-911 and Emergency Management** services for the ensuing year; \$9,923 to be raised by taxes and \$1,350 to come from fees.

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Safety Committee                         | \$ 1,500         |
| E-911                                    | \$ 250           |
| Emergency Management                     | <u>\$ 9,523</u>  |
| <b>Total Safety, E-911 &amp; Emg Mgt</b> | <b>\$ 11,273</b> |

**ACTION:** Motion was made and seconded to put **Article 10** on the floor. All voted in favor of **Article 10**.

**ARTICLE 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$53,916** to defray the cost of running the **Fire Department** for the ensuing year; \$51,166 to be raised by taxes; \$2,500 from charges for services and \$250 from fees.

**ACTION:** Motion was made and seconded to put **Article 11** on the floor. Mark Andrew explained that in the past the **Fire Department** billed towns for fire calls and the money went to the **Fire Department**. Starting this year, the Town will bill these towns and the money will go into the general fund. A new “Detail” line item was added this year to reflect the change. All voted in favor of **Article 11**.

**ARTICLE 12:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$18,022** to defray the cost of running the **EMS (Emergency Medical Services)** for the ensuing year; \$16,322 to come from taxes; \$1,500 from charges for services and \$200 from fees.

**ACTION:** Motion was made and seconded to put **Article 12** on the floor. There were **186** calls for service. As with the **Fire Department**, a “Detail” line was also added to the **EMS** budget. If there is an event, **EMS** will be on standby. We will only pay out if income is received. All voted in favor of **Article 12**.

**ARTICLE 13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$197,758** for the maintenance of **Highways and Bridges** for the ensuing year.

**ACTION:** Motion was made and seconded to put **Article 13** on the floor. There was no discussion on article. All voted in favor of **Article 13**.

**ARTICLE 14:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$75,000** for **Road Improvements** for the ensuing year. This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 V. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION:** Motion was made and seconded to put Article 14 on the floor. John explained that this money would be used to complete about one more mile of Buffalo Rd. A question was asked if there was some way the town could encourage the State to look at some of our state roads in Rumney and schedule some work for them. All voted in favor of Article 14.

**ARTICLE 15:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$122,026** to defray the cost of maintaining the **Transfer Station** for the ensuing year.

**ACTION:** Motion was made and seconded to put Article 15 on the floor. There were no major changes in this appropriation this year. Sonny stock piles the recyclables until the price is the best. The total received for the recycled items was \$36,223. All voted in favor of Article 15.

**ARTICLE 16:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,369** to defray the Town's share of the cost of the **Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District** and **Plymouth Water and Sewer District Permit Fee**.

**ACTION:** Motion was made and seconded to put Article 16 on the floor. No change in this article. All voted in favor of Article 16.

**ARTICLE 17:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$4,000** to defray the cost of services, labor and/or equipment needed at the Transfer Station for part of Phase II of the **Landfill Closure** process as required by the State of New Hampshire.

**ACTION:** Motion was made and seconded to put Article 17 on the floor. We are now in Phase II of the process. All voted in favor of Article 17.

**ARTICLE 18:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$41,472** for the purposes of **Animal Control, Health and Welfare**.

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Animal Services                                   | \$ 500           |
| Animal Control Officer                            | \$ 1,000         |
| Health Officer – Stipend                          | \$ 1,238         |
| Health Administration                             | \$ 500           |
| Mount Mooselauke Health Center                    | \$ 1,250         |
| Pemi-Baker Home, Health & Hospice                 | \$ 6,989         |
| Plymouth Regional Clinic                          | \$ 1,000         |
| Voices Against Violence                           | \$ 1,200         |
| Bridge House                                      | \$ 1,000         |
| Genesis   | \$ 250           |
| CASA  | \$ 250           |
| CADY  | \$ 400           |
| Direct Assistance                                 | \$ 15,000        |
| Welfare Administrator – Stipend                   | \$ 4,000         |
| Grafton County Seniors                            | \$ 3,000         |
| Tri-County CAP                                    | <u>\$ 3,895</u>  |
| <b>Total Animal Control, Health &amp; Welfare</b> | <b>\$ 41,472</b> |

**ACTION: Motion was made and seconded to put Article 18 on the floor. There was an increase in Direct Assistance anticipating the increased need for help with fuel and utilities and a stipend was added for the Welfare Administrator position. All voted in favor of Article 18.**

**ARTICLE 19:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$14,050** for the purposes of **Culture, Recreation and Conservation** for the ensuing year; \$8,688 to be raised by taxes; \$1,862 from fund balance and \$3,500 from LUCT taxes.

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Common-Mowing, Maintenance & Lights                 | \$ 1,500         |
| Baker Athletic Field                                | \$ 3,250         |
| Old Home Day  | \$ 3,500         |
| Jim Darling Natural Area                            | \$ 1,000         |
| Patriotic Purposes                                  | \$ 350           |
| Conservation Commission                             | \$ 750           |
| Baker River Watershed Dues                          | \$ 200           |
| Conservation Trust                                  | <u>\$ 3,500</u>  |
| <b>Total Culture, Recreation &amp; Conservation</b> | <b>\$ 14,050</b> |

**ACTION: Motion was made and seconded to put Article 19 on the floor. All voted in favor of Article 19.**

**ARTICLE 20:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$40,130** to operate the **Byron G. Merrill Library** for the ensuing year; \$36,130 to be raised by taxes and \$4,000 to come from Library Endowment Funds.

**ACTION: Motion was made and seconded to put Article 20 on the floor. All voted in favor of Article 20.**

**ARTICLE 21:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,500** to defray the cost of **interest expenses** on loans in **anticipation of taxes** and other temporary loans.

**ACTION: Motion was made and seconded to put Article 21 on the floor. All voted in favor of Article 21.**

**ARTICLE 22:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$123,000** to be added to the previously established **Capital Reserve Funds** as follows: The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Highway Equipment Fund (1960)                   | 25,000            |
| Fire Department Fund (1963)                     | 20,000            |
| Town Revaluation Fund (1984)                    | 10,000            |
| Police Department Fund (1986)                   | 8,000             |
| Town Facilities Fund (1987)                     | 20,000            |
| EMS Vehicle Fund (2005)                         | 10,000            |
| Transfer Station Equipment Fund (2008)          | 8,000             |
| Bridge Repair & Maintenance Fund (2008)         | 10,000            |
| Fire Department Equipment Fund (2009)           | 4,000             |
| Fire Department Water Supply Fund (2010)        | 3,000             |
| Merrill Library Capital Improvement Fund (1998) | <u>5,000</u>      |
| <b>Total Capital Reserve Funds</b>              | <b>\$ 123,000</b> |

**ACTION: Motion was made and seconded to put Article 22 on the floor. All voted in favor of Article 22.**

**ARTICLE 23:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$14,000** for the purpose of purchasing **extrication equipment** for the Rumney Fire Department. A grant has been applied for; a decision is pending. If the grant is funded, \$9,500 will be raised by taxes and \$ 4,500 will come from grant monies. If the grant is not funded, the \$14,000 will come from taxes. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION: Motion was made and seconded to put Article 23 on the floor. After much discussion and suggestions about how to fund this purchase, it was voted in favor with a few no's noted to pass Article 23 as written.**

**ARTICLE 24:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$5,000** for the purpose of **repairing and maintaining dry hydrants** in town and to authorize the withdrawal of said sum from the Water Supply Capital Reserve Fund (created in 2010). This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION: Motion was made and seconded to put Article 24 on the floor. The current plan prioritizes the need of the dry hydrants throughout the town. This year the goal is to complete the one at Stinson Lake and continue with others as funds and time allow. All voted in favor of Article 24.**

**ARTICLE 25:** To hear reports of agents, auditors, and committees heretofore chosen, to pass any vote relating thereto, and to transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

**John Fucci mentioned the Northern Pass so that people are aware of the project. A petition was submitted to have an article on the warrant but it lacked the correct amount of signatures. Information is available at the Town Office.**

**The Mazurs wanted people to know that March 25<sup>th</sup> would be the deadline for input to the SEC on the Groton Wind Farm.**

**Janice Mulherin reminded people that we need volunteers for the Recreation Committee and Facilities Committee.**

**A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Linda Whitcomb, Town Clerk**